(e) what are the reasons for not clearing the claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THAR A DEVI): (a) to (c) The amount due to the State Government is allowed only on receipt of audited figures of expenditure from the State Accountant General. An amount of Rs. 212.00 lakhs which was clear from all objections has been reimbursed to the State Government in March, 1991.

Further claims of State Government will become reimbursable on receipt of audited figures from State Accountant General.

Proposal to establish additional bench of Kerala High Court in North Kerala

173. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under its consideration any proposal to establish an additional Bench of Kerala High Court in North Kerala; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir. In their letter dated 2.4.1985, the Government of Kerala stated that they had not taken a final view regarding the setting up of a bench of the Kerala High Court. No further communication has been received from the State Government in this regard.

(b) Does riot arise.

Acceptance of Acharya Ram Murthy Comjnittee recommendations on Kducation System

174. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRl N. E. BALARAM: SHRI
SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of Shri Ram Murthy Committee on making vital changes in educational system;

(b) if so, by when they would be implemented and whether any time frame has been worked out in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to change the calendar of the acedemic year so that students may be absorbed during vacation on agriculture and allied jobs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRl ARJUN SINGH): (a) anw (b) The recommendations made by the NPE Review Committee (Acharya Ramamurthy. Committee) are under examination.

(c) At present the Government have no proposal lor changing the calendar of the academic year. However, it is for the concerned Boards of School Education and the Universities to decide about the academic calendar.

Stoppage of export of raw cotton

175. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to com pletely stop the export of raw cotton, so that country can export more value added goods;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES UNDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The objectives of releasing quotas for export of raw cotton are stabilisation of prices in the domestic market, provision of remunerative prices to the cotton growers and to maintain India's presence in the international market as a stable supplier.

Demand and Production of Firewood

176. SHRl SURESH PACHOURI: : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORISIS be pleased to state :

(a) Whethre the Forests Report, 1987 compiled by Forest Survey of India states that there is gap of 235 million cubic metres between demand and sustainable production of firewood in the .ountry; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to bridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRTKAMALNIATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The gap is only 195 M. cum. and not 235 M. cum.

(b) Steps taken by Governmen! to bridge this gap are :

(i) Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

(ii) Improved Chullahs are being popularised in rural areas to save fuel-wood.

(iii) Alternate fuels like Kerosene, LPG etc. are being subsidised in tribal areas.

(iv) Solar cookers are being advocated to harness solar energy.

(v) Massive afforestation programmes have been launched to raise fuelwood and fodder plantatons under social forestry programme.

Promotion of Afforestation in the Country

177. SHRI SURUSH PACHOURI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current rate of deforestation in the country;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the schemes under implementation at present by Government to check deforestation and promote afforestation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the State of rorest Report 1989 he annual rate of loss of forest cover is 47,500 hectares.

(b) The causes of decline of forest cover are :

(1) Higher demand for fuelwood and timber due to increased population.

(2) Overgrazing leading to degradation of forest land.

(3) Requirements of wood based industries.

(4) Insufficient financial outlays for regeneration of degraded forest land.

(5) The problem of shifting cultiva tion in tribal areas especially in the North Eastern Region.

(c) Following schemes are being imple mented to promote afforestation and to check deforestation:

(1) The Integrated Wasleltnds Development Scheme.

(2) Scheme for fuelwood and fodder project.

(3) Peoples nurseries scheme.

(4) Scheme for conservation of minor forest produce.

(5) Scheme for Aerial seeding.